Centres have been set up at the following places Statewise.

Kerala	Trichur
Punjab	Jalandhar, Ludhiana
Haryana	Faridabad
West Bengal	Howrah

All the speed post centres in the National Network are linked to one another without distance restriction and no distinction is made based on distance except for the purpose of tariffs.

(b) and (c) No Sir, Not at present.

(d) Since the inception of the Service in 1986, Speed Post has registered a growth of 600 per cent in terms of articles handled and 910 per cent in terms of revenue earned by the Department. The Department has no authentic information regarding the corresponding figures in respect of private courier services.

Electronic exchanges in Gujarat

91. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places in Gujarat where Electronic Telephone Exchanges of ten thousand lines are proposed to be set up; and

(b) by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Electronic exchanges of ten thousand lines capacity are proposed to be set up at Ahmedabad, Surat and Baroda.

(b) One ten thousand lines exchange at Ahmedabad was commissioned in June 1993. Two exchanges each of 10,000 lines are likely to be commissioned at Surat and Baroda during the current year (1993-94).

Testing of latest Swedish technology for telecommunication

92. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the year-long testing of the latest Swedish technology for installation in Mylapore and Anna Nagar in Madras city still continues and will be further delayed due to technical reasons;

(b) whether the Madras Telephone Department has sought a special allocation of 20,000 lines of new generation digital electronic switching equipment from technologies validated elsewhere in the country; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the demands of the Madras Telephone Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir, all the tests to be conducted prior to loading (cutover) of the exchange have been completed.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) 33,200 new connections are proposed to be provided during 1993-94.

Time limit imposed on calls

93. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone subscribers are over-charged be-

cause of three minutes time limit imposed on calls between inter-diaiing exchanges;

(b) if so, what is the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rectify this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. The charging is done as per prescribed tariff.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Restrictions of telephone and telex communications with countries harbouring terrorists

94. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to impose restrictions of telephone and telex communications with the countries harbouring terrorists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Not for the present.

(b) Does not arise.

Overcharging of rent for temporary telex connections in Tamil Nadu

95. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whethe it is a fact that the Madras Telephone and other telecom. authorities in Tamil Nadu are charging twice the quarterly rent for temporary telex connections though these charges were subsequently reduced one and a half times;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rectify this mistake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) At present t rental for temporary telex connectio is being charged at the rate of one a half times of the normal rent. Earl upto middle of Feb. 1993 rental at t rate of twice the normal rental w charged by mistake in the case of Mad Telephones only.

(b) Madras Telephones—24 cases (fr 1990 to Mid-Feb. 1993). Tamil Na Telecom—Nil.

(c) In 2 cases the excess charged r has already been refunded. For remaining 22 cases refund shall be m after locating the original party.

The correction in rental has b incorporated in the latest Teleph Directory of Madras Telephones for benefit of subscribers.

Post Offices in the villages of Ma Pradesh

96. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUN TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of post c in the country and the average po tion served by each post office;

(b) what are the district-wise offices in Madhya Pradesh and the age population servisel by each office, district-wise;

(c) whether some villages are still out post offices there;

(d) if so, number of such vi and

(e) what steps Government p to take to provide at least mobil offices in such villages in Madhy desh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OI MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA' (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The r of post offices as on 31-3-93